

9. (Amended) A preplant treatment method for fields, comprising:

generating steam in a first steam generator, the steam having water droplets therein;

removing substantially all the water droplets from the steam so as to form saturated steam substantially free of water droplets;

heating the [supersaturated] saturated steam to at least about 300° F. in a second steam generator to form superheated steam; and,

selectively delivering sufficient of the superheated steam to soil in the field prior to planting to kill nematodes therein, the superheated steam being delivered at a temperature above 250° F.

#### REMARKS

The purpose of this amendment is to correct wording in claims 1 and 9. The corrected word "saturated" has antecedent basis in the paragraph preceding each correction, and is supported in the specification, for example, in Fig. 6 and the discussion of that figure at column 10, lines 35 – 57.

It is therefore believed that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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